Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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CASABLANCA FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EFIS MR KS

SUBJECT: SOUTH KOREAN-MAURITANIAN FISHING RELATIONS

REF: (A) SEOUL 810, (B) CASABLANCA 202, (C) SEOUL 1601, (D) NOUAKCHOTT 546, (E) NOUAKCHOTT 888, (F) NOUAKCHOTT 926

- 1. SOUTH KOREAN COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY IN PARIS, JOUNG LOO LEE, BRIEFED US ON STATUS OF SOUTH KOREAN FISHING IN MAURITANIAN WATERS DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO NOUAKCHOTT (REF F). LEE NOTED THERE IS NO FORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ROKG AND GIRM ON FISHING IN MAURITANIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS. (BASED ON PREVIOUS REPORTING THIS TOPIC, WE ASSUME ALL LICENSING AND ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED BY GIRM OFFICIALS LOCATED IN NORTHERN PORT OF NOUADHIBOU.) HE SAID THERE ARE PRESENTLY SEVENTEEN KOREAN FISHING VESSELS OPERATING IN MAURITANIAN WATERS. AT LEAST SOME OF THESE VESSELS ARE OPERATING IN WATERS OFF MAURITANIAN-CONTROLLED PORTION OF SAHARA.
- 2. LEE COOCFIRMED REPORT CONTAINED REF D CONCERNING KOREAN RELUCTANCE TO MEET REQUIREMENT FOR PROVIDING FISH TO MAURITANIAN INDUSTRY IN NOUADHIBOU. GIRM IS CONFIDENTIAL

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REQUIRING KOREAN VESSELS TO DELIVER 1,200 TONS OF FISH

PER MONTH PER SHIP TO ONE OF FISH COMPANIES, PROBABLY MAURITANIAN FISHERY COMPANY (MAFCO), IN NOUADHIBOU. LEE NOTED THAT MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF EACH SHIP PER MONTH IS 18,000 TONS. KOREANS ARGUE THAT OFFTAKE REQUIREMENT IS TOO ONEROUS AND NET RESULT, AS REPORTED REF F, WILL LIEKLY BE TERMINATION OF KOREAN FISHING ACTIVITY IN MAURITANIAN WATERS.HANDYSIDE

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